

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, August 4, 1994

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True Love Waits for youths around the world

WASHINGTON (BP) — While approximately 25,000 United States youths participated in the July 29 True Love Waits celebration in Washington, and thousands more viewed television coverage of the event, youths in other countries participated in similar sexual abstinence emphases.

The goal of True Love Waits, to encourage teenagers and college students to follow biblical teach-

ings and remain chaste until marriage, has been endorsed in the United States and other countries by a wide range of religious groups.

In Uganda and Canada, support for the campaign, begun by the Baptist Sunday School Board and endorsed by 27 other U.S. denominations and organizations, was evident in gatherings of young people.

In Kampala, Uganda, a parade of 400 to 500 youths, complete with banners and police escort, began on July 29 at the city square and continued to the Makerere University for the last session of the Central and Eastern African Students Conference. Approximately 150 secondary school and university students from eight African countries adjourned their session to join in the rally, with a

total crowd growing to an estimated 750 to 1,000. Southern Baptist missionary Sharon Pumpelly said national broadcast news coverage featured the march as well as interviews.

The Ugandan campaign has gained the support of Janet Museveni, wife of Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni.

The July 26 issue of *Women's Vision*, an insert in *The New Vision*, Kampala's daily newspaper, reported Janet Museveni, host for the July 19 first meeting of the campaign, said parents should not "sit back expecting someone else to teach and give their children sex education." Rather, she pointed out, parents had a duty to their children to make sure the children were not ignorant about the basics on sex.

Baptists, Catholics, Anglicans, and Pentecostals worked with other religious and government leaders to offer a wide range of activities for the rally, including skits, music, and testimonies from teens who have already promised to remain pure until marriage.

At the Baptist Youth Convention in Ottawa, Canada, approximately 1,000 young people watched the Friday evening broadcast of the Washington event as a part of their convention program. Over the weekend, more than 7,000 pledge cards collected since January through the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada's True Love Waits campaign were to be presented to a representative of Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

The National Youth Convention in Malawi, Africa, in April included a Bible study on True Love Waits. All 115 youths attending the annual meeting

signed pledge cards. Baptist Student/Youth Advisor Jack Sears said the success of the event has led to a commitment to provide the True Love Waits campaign in all the Baptist Associations of Malawi as well as secondary schools. While the country has 6.5 million youths, 50,000 of whom are Baptist, most cannot attend large national events, Sears said. The effort to take the campaign to multiple locations is expected to require all of 1995, he continued.

In Togo, the women's department of the Togolese Baptist Convention launched a French-language version of the campaign this year at a camp for Christian girls.

A True Love Waits commitment service at Nyeri Baptist High School in Kenya resulted in commitments from 130 students who cited love for their unborn children, their future mate, their friends, themselves, and God as reasons for abstinence.

Recently, the Baptist Union of New Zealand announced plans to implement True Love Waits as an interdenominational campaign.

The Baptist World Alliance, headquartered in McLean, Va., will carry the program to its 165 Baptist groups representing more than 38 million Baptists in 150 countries.

The language materials may be ordered by persons in the United States by contacting Minnie Jackson at the Baptist World Alliance at (703) 790-8980.

True Love Waits materials and Christian sex education materials in English are available from the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, by calling 1-800-458-2772 from within the United States.



WASHINGTON, D.C. — Mary Lawler (left) displays the True Love Waits T-shirt logo as Nathan King places commitment cards on the National Mall. The teens, both members of First Church, Carthage, were

among 1,000 teenagers placing over 211,163 cards representing pledges to sexual abstinence before marriage. The event was part of a national rally July 29. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Door open to Muslim Chinese

The door to one of China's isolated but powerful Muslim groups is open to Southern Baptist medical teams. Cooperative Services International (CSI), the Southern Baptist aid organization, has opportunities to place five four-member medical teams in China, but so far has been unable to fill the positions. CSI workers are particularly excited about the opportunities because of possible contact with one of China's Muslim minority groups, the Hui (pronounced "Whey"). The Hui people, who live on top of China's extensive oil reserves, have experienced steady Islamic growth and are beginning to grasp their growing political clout. "At present, medical work is one of the few doors into that group in China. It's a fantastic opportunity to work with a difficult-to-reach people," said a CSI official. The teams will train Chinese medical workers in provincial capitals and rural clinics, in a number of specialties and paramedic services. For more information, contact Alvinia Michalec in CSI's Richmond, Va., office toll-free at 1-800-999-3113.

Understanding Islam

Samuel Shahid knows Muslim culture. The Southwestern Seminary adjunct professor understands why Muslims dress as they do, how they think, and — most importantly — how to reach them for Christ. This fall at Southwestern, Shahid will teach the Arabic language, which he says is a "must" if the Islamic world is to be reached. "Muslims believe that when God revealed the Koran to Mohammed, he revealed it in Arabic and that is the language of God," he said. Shahid's father was a Jordanian Christian pastor, and he often found himself in situations in that country where he was the only Christian for miles around. He emigrated to the U.S. in 1976, where he was among the first to spot the aggressive growth of Islam in America and founded Good News for the Crescent World to educate people about the needs of converted Muslims. He also spent five years translating the Old Testament into the Arabic language, and he says that translation is presently the most popular Bible version in Arab communities worldwide.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Larry Bright, Tylertown native and member of Pinelake Church, Rankin County, is selected as organist for equestrian events at the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Horse fancier Bright brings 20 years of experience to his new job.

20 years ago

Four members of First Church, New Albany, surrender to the ministry, making a total of six young men from the church who are training for church-related work at Blue Mountain College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary.

50 years ago

John Thomas Carroll, 89, said to be Mississippi's oldest Baptist preacher, dies at his home in Eupora after a colorful career as hardscrabble farmer, horseback mail carrier, and well-traveled pastor.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

O Troubler of Israel

King Ahab represented the government. He opposed any religion that rebuked his evil practices. He followed the gods of Baal. He wanted Elijah, prophet of Jehovah, defeated. The ways and means committee arranged a meeting. Ahab said to Elijah, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?"

Elijah answered, "I have not troubled Israel but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord... (1 Kings 18).

Here, church and state met and swapped pleasantries. The sin of Ahab was the cause of Israel's problems in that he continued the evil practices of his father, plus added the sin of pushing Israel toward the golden calf.

Today the tension between the Ahabs and the Elijahs continues. Accusations are hurled back and forth as one sees the other as being the troubler of America.

Recently (June 30) *The Wall Street Journal* had a very perceptive editorial on "Those Troublesome Christians." "Tolerance"

appears to be the golden calf as the worshippers of Baal heaps all conservative Christians in one basket and calls it the "religious right." Christians and their "secretiveness" is said to be "what the American people fear most."

The *Journal* article quotes the example of Rep. Vic Fazio, head of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. Fazio refused to vote for a resolution opposing Louis Farrakhan's aide Khalid Muhammed. Muhammed had been making speeches on college campuses such as... "We kill everything white, we kill the children," etc. Fazio said he deplored the speech but under the rules of "tolerance" and "diversity" it was okay. He said it was not the job of Congress to "evaluate" expressions of bigotry.

However, Fazio had little hesitancy in condemning the "religious right" or conservative Christians. A *New York Times* writer, Frank Rich, sees it as a "homophobic panic" in that Christians would dare denounce

lifestyle sins. Moreover, Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders recites "hymns to condoms" and the legalization of drugs while denouncing the "un-Christian" religious right.

The Anti-Defamation League speaks of the menace of the Christian "right" and sees the shadow of Senator McCarthy behind every statement. The *Journal* stated the Evangelical and other Christians had committed the "crime" of getting into politics and made their views heard. The Ahabs in Washington can't figure out these Elijahs. The *Journal* surmised the Christians were winning... elections that is. Also, it observed that you don't always have to go meekly to the lions.

The truth is that if you oppose abortions, homosexuality, or sin in general, you are labeled a "right-winger" by much of the Ahab-led American media. Southern Baptists have opposed this practice and, thank the Lord, they will continue to oppose Baal worship and stand for what is right.

The Mississippi Tablecloth

Somewhere between reality and visual expectations, we grow into childhood and youth. Each day is a "memory building" experience. "The Tablecloth" was first published in the Mississippi Wildlife & Fisheries magazine in 1971. Later, it was published in The (Jackson) Clarion-Ledger and Mississippi Magazine. — Guy Henderson

When we were growing up, my papa found a big plastic map of Mississippi. Nothing would do but for him to use it for a tablecloth even though Mama maintained it was hard enough to live there without having to eat on it. Through the years it became a pattern that molded much of our table decor and culinary endeavors.

Automatically we knew the vase of flowers would go down around Pelahatchie. Since there were 10 children to crowd in on the benches, I usually sat at Vicksburg. If company came I could be squeezed down as far as Natchez. However, this was much too close to the end of the table or along the Gulf Coast where Papa sat. We laughingly told him he was sitting in the Gulf of Mexico, but he declared as how the waters kept his feet cool and besides he was fond of the scenery. Also, in this position he was able to keep an elbow on Picayune and another on Lucedale.

Mama always sat up in Tennessee, a position she preferred,

since her back would be toward the North. Papa reminded her that The War was over, but Mama would only snort and continue to sit on Tennessee.

It helped, too, when the table was crowded. You could always say, "Here, set the beans in Hollandale," or, "Please reach me the pie over near Ripley."

It taught the younger children how to set the table correctly. I can still hear the older sister telling the young ones, "Now put the plate at Meridian, the fork just south of Quitman and the spoon and knife up near Shuqualak."

Papa didn't believe in the first person singular, so he would say, "Pascagoula needs the corn bread," or, "Bay St. Louis is mighty dry."

Mama wanted to change it come Thanksgiving, but removing that map was akin to a revolution all over the southland. I was accused of being at Greenville instead of Vicksburg. Papa allowed as how he did not know if he were at Biloxi or New Orleans and that he would have cancelled Thanksgiving if he had known it would destroy the entire state. Moving that tablecloth map caused more confusion than the carpetbaggers' invasion. At supper that night, I well remember how nice it was to see the linen folded away and in ceremonial quietness, we spread the map. Vicksburg never looked so good.

Of course, some cities messed

things up something fierce. Mama always kept the coffee on the stove even though we thought it would be quaint to keep it on Hot Coffee. We compromised by keeping the pickles at Mt. Olive and the fried chicken at Duck Hill. Uncle Sipes would come to visit and beg to sit at Pilgrims Rest in Itawamba County.

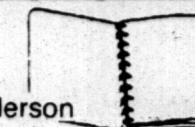
Once I spilled a glass of milk near Raymond and it ran clear up to Tupelo and as far south as Tyler town. Papa declared it flooded 12 counties and said we should ask the government to declare it a disaster area. It was hard enough to lose the milk, but to know I had brought disaster was frightening. I was afraid to go near Tupelo for weeks after that.

Through the years the map wore out but it didn't matter then. We had places so well memorized that I knew every county and county seat. My cousin from Louisiana came to visit and thought we were nuts. "Put the hot biscuits at Wiggins," or "Pass the pie to Biloxi" left him utterly confused. It really impressed him when we told him the map story and later reports had him drawing a map of Louisiana on his mother's best linen tablecloth.

Try it some time. While this method of teaching geography is not PTA-approved, the demographic digestibility is entirely satisfactory and is guaranteed to give you a new appreciation for fine linen.

Thursday, August 4, 1994

Guy Henderson



'He is our peace'
(Ephesians 2:14)



Observe Day of Prayer for World Peace

August 7, 1994

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission
of the Southern Baptist Convention

Observe Day of Prayer for World Peace, Aug. 7

By Louis A. Moore

Even as the threat of world communism recedes from memory and once-hostile nations reduce the size of their armed forces, peace remains an elusive goal for many people today.

While the un-peace of war stalks places such as the former Yugoslav republics, the real lack of peace is seen today in lives tarnished by abuse and violence in their own homes and neighborhoods.

Driving this abuse and violence are the "secret" sins of society that fuel the reservoirs of hate and despair which invade the homes of the rich and poor alike: 18 million alcoholics, including 4.5 million teenagers, live in the U.S. alone, affecting 76 million family members; one in four American girls and one in eight boys are sexually abused by age 18; incest reportedly touches one in five Americans.

Christians are not immune. The consequences of divorce, AIDS, sexual abuse, alcoholism, drug abuse, mental illness, and all the other plagues on humankind have left deep scars on many Christians today. Some estimates say as many as 80% of all SBC pastors today grew up in homes that would be

classified by even Christian psychologists as dysfunctional. Many continue to bear the scars of such difficulties as parental alcoholism, divorce, workaholism, sexual abuse, and verbal or physical abuse.

The apostle Paul in Ephesians 2:14 reminds us that the peace we so desperately seek is found in Christ. "For he is our peace," Paul said, referring to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Paul spoke about how the shedding of Christ's blood has broken down the walls separating Jews and Gentiles. Through Christ, the enmity that destroys peace is eradicated, reconciling Jew and Gentile through the cross.

If we allow him to do so, Christ is able to heal the scars in our hearts caused by a world that still lives in enmity with God. No matter what disquiets the heart, Christ truly is our peace in every way. "And [he] came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father," said Paul in Ephesians 2:17-18.

Moore is director of media, Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

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Endowment use criticized, defended as Nobles investments unfold

Former Mississippi College President Lewis Nobles' frequent use of the school's endowments to trade stocks was questionable at best, but the institution's board chairman defended the practice in an Aug. 1 investigative article in Jackson's **The Clarion-Ledger** newspaper.

The copyrighted article by Jerry Mitchell contained strong criticism from financial advisors regarding Nobles' deep personal involvement in managing the endowments at the Baptist-affiliated school in Clinton.

"It was highly irregular for the president to be engaged in those decisions," said Martin Grenzebach, chairman of John Grenzebach & Associates, Inc., a Chicago financial consulting firm that works closely with private universities.

The school's board of trustees forced Nobles to resign in August 1993 after more than \$3 million was alleged to be missing from Mississippi College (MC) coffers.

Nobles has not been charged with any crime, but a federal grand jury continues to look into

allegations that Nobles funneled the money into personal accounts for his own use.

David Storrs, president of The Common Fund, a Connecticut company that invests endowments for 1,300 colleges and universities, said in the article, "I think the most troublesome part is the lack of professional management."

Harry Vickery of Greenville, chairman of the MC board of trustees, pointed out that the board gave Nobles, as well as previous MC presidents, authority to handle portions of the school's endow-

ment investments.

"His (Nobles) track record was commensurate with" outside money managers working for the college, Vickery said.

The financial advisors contacted by the newspaper disagreed with Vickery.

Arthur Finkelberg, vice-president of A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc., in Jackson, noted that he was unfamiliar with MC's investment practices but observed, "Obviously, that's not how an endowment is handled."

The newspaper reported that Internal Revenue Service records indicate the college:

— Repeatedly sold many blue-chip stocks, such as Walt Disney Company, Wal-Mart, Coca-Cola, and Phillip Morris. Those companies subsequently posted profits of between 50% and 300% in the three years after the MC sale.

— Annually sold more than 90% of its endowment stock portfolio, while the national average was about 40% for most university endowments.

— Lost money on stock, mutual fund, and corporate bond sales three out of four years, with estimated brokerage fees likely eating up any proceeds from the only profitable year.

During the same period, Storrs' company averaged nearly 15% return for its clients, the paper said, while United Methodist-affiliated Millsaps College in Jackson achieved almost 19% return in 1993 alone by using outside investment advisors.

"An endowment is different than an investment for an individual... You're looking at long-term growth more than income," said James C. Lewis, vice-president for development at Millsaps.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Thursday, August 4, 1994

Published Since 1877

Youth Night '94 prompts 130 professions of faith

By Teresa Dickens

Youth Night's attendance neared the 20,000 mark again this year as Baptist youths and leaders from across the state poured into Mississippi Memorial Stadium, Jackson, July 29 for the annual event.

Highlighting this year's program were singer/musician Byron Cutrer from Orlando, Fla.; contemporary Christian vocal group Point of Grace, Nashville; and Mike Curry, president of Light Ministries, Conway, Ark.

Cutrer and Point of Grace opened the evening's program with two turns each on stage. Cutrer and back-up singers, Ladye Love Long and Reggie Smith, both of Nashville, led the audience in a selection of hymns, choruses, and fun songs. They also performed a few songs as a group.

Point of Grace, 1994 Dove Award winners for "New Artist of the Year," closed their second mini-concert with their hit song, "Jesus Will Still Be There." Prior to singing, group member Terry Lang Jones talked to the crowd about remaining sexually pure until marriage. "We have done it and you can too," she said.

But, she added, "If you have already made the choice to have sex, Jesus can make you spiritually pure and help you remain that way until marriage."

Curry maintained the mood set by Point of Grace with a prayer then moved into his message. He too called on the crowd to come to Jesus for healing, using as his example the healing of the leper in Matthew 8:1-4.

The leper, Curry said, had reached the point of desperation. His body was wrecked with disease and he was a social outcast. Possibly, Curry imagined, the leper stood far off with other lepers and listened to Jesus as he

taught from the mountain side (Matt. 5:7). The leper responded to Jesus' message: my kingdom is for everyone.

The leper's appeal to Jesus was "If you are willing, you can make me clean," Curry explained. Jesus, touching him, said, "I am willing... Be clean!"

"Many of you are like the leper," Curry told the crowd. "You are desperate. You need Christ's healing touch. You need to know that someone still loves you and cares for you.

"Jesus does," he affirmed, "and he wants to heal you. Will you come to Jesus to get life?"

Hundreds of youths responded to Curry's invitation. Decision cards reflected 130 professions of faith and 268 other decisions.

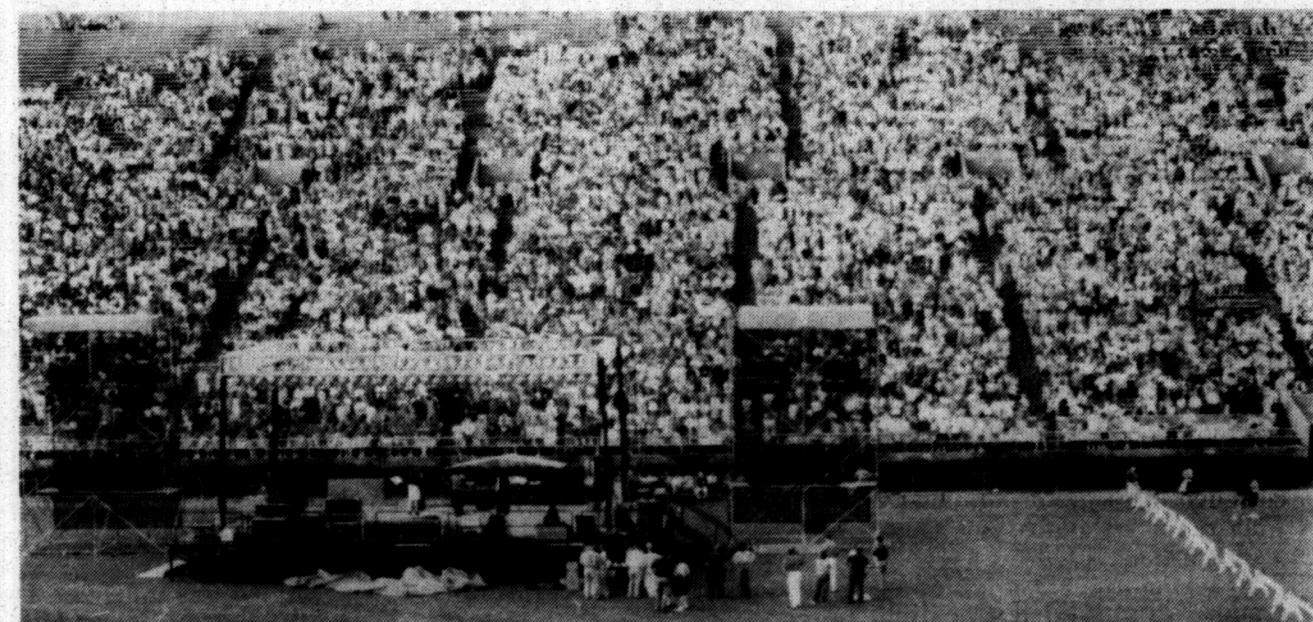
"The prayers of so many for Youth Night '94 were answered in multiple ways," said Graham Smith, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Music Department and coordinator of the event. "The weather was a special gift from the Lord.

"Our guests," he added, "were used mightily of the Lord and the movement of the Holy Spirit was strongly evident. We of the Youth Night Committee give God all the glory and our deepest thanks."

Graham reported that \$9,685 was given in a special offering taken during the evening. The money will be used for future Youth Night programs and new equipment. The offering is a supplement to Cooperative Program funds budgeted for the event.

Graham, who rotates off the Youth Night Committee this year, served with fellow committee members Gary Maze, Matt Buckles, Phil Walker, Rocky Henriques, Susan Clark, Larry Salter, and Jim Lott. Buckles, consultant

in the MBCB Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, will chair the committee next year.



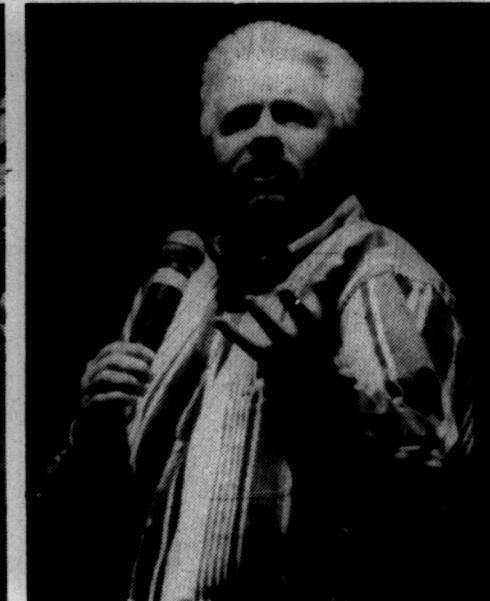
An estimated 19,000 youths and leaders attended last Friday's Youth Night at Mississippi Memorial Stadium, Jackson. Mike Curry, bottom right photo, challenged the audience to turn to Jesus for spiritual heal-

largest of the Southern Baptist Convention's six seminaries. He was fired March 9 by trustees who gave no immediate reason for the dismissal. Later, they claimed Dilday had reached an impasse with the board, blocking their efforts to make the seminary more reflective of the Southern Baptist Convention's current conservative direction.

Russell Dilday will join staff of Truett Seminary

DALLAS (BP) — Russell H. Dilday Jr., former president of Southwestern Seminary, has been named distinguished professor of homiletics at Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary and special assistant to Baylor's president, effective Aug. 1.

Dilday served nearly 16 years as president at Southwestern, the



ing and cleansing. Counselors talked with the nearly 400 teenagers who responded to Curry's invitation. (Photos by Tim Nicholas)



Ministry's friend

Lillian (Mrs. Haywood) Walters was recently presented the Friend of Discipleship Training (DT) award by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi-Baptist Convention Board. Walters has been a supporter of DT and Bible Drills for more than 35 years, and has served her church, Lakeshore in Jackson, and Hinds-Madison Association as DT and Bible Drill leader. Walters is only the third person to receive this award. Previous recipients were James Webster of Hinds-Madison Association, and Tom Winstead of Calvary Church, Jackson.

"We have less than five years" —

Marshall warns Christians against threats to civil, religious freedom

By Shannon T. Simpson

"Restoring Our Christian Heritage" was the topic of a message delivered at First Church, Jackson, by Peter Marshall during the evening worship service, July 24.

The former Presbyterian minister also presented similar messages to First, West Point, on July 24, and West Jackson Street, Tupelo, July 30.

Since 1977, Marshall has devoted his time to preaching and teaching about the restoration of America to its status as a God-fearing nation.

Speaking to a congregation of about 1,200, Marshall called America "a divine experiment in self-government," and called our constitutional government "the only form of government in which human beings can be free to reach their God-given potential." (See sidebar.)

Speaking from the premise that America was formed under the divine direction of God, and that its Constitution was written by godly men and based on biblical principles, Marshall warned against apathy among Christians.

"The day is over when you can sit back and expect the next generation to take over (the fight to preserve America's freedoms)....," Marshall said. "The America we have known is almost gone.... If you care about your children, you must get in the fight!"

Citing the rise in abortion numbers as an example of the drastic decay of America's moral fabric, Marshall issued a prediction: "We

have less than five years left, give or take a few," before we reach the point of decay beyond which we cannot repair the damage done to our society, he said.

"We are losing a generation," he said. "The church is not doing its job. Our stuck-in-a-rut kind of faith won't cut it. Satan is destroying us... We must repent of our denominationalism, and... come together before it's too late. We are losing our religious freedoms."

What is the solution?

"First, recover the original American vision. 'Where there is



Peter Marshall

SWBTS trustees unanimously elect Ken Hemphill president

FORT WORTH (ABP) — Kenneth Hemphill of Atlanta was unanimously elected president of Southwestern Seminary July 28 by trustees hoping to bring an end to six months of unrest at the world's largest theological school.

Hemphill, 46, a church-growth specialist and former Virginia pastor, was elected by the trustee board during a closed-door meeting on the Fort Worth, Texas, campus. The trustees met in the same room where on March 9 they voted 27-7 to fire Russell Dilday, the school's president for 15 years.

He pledged to trustees "my best efforts and my full cooperation." To faculty, he pledged leadership, friendship, and a commitment to ministry. To students, he promised "a quality academic education combined with practical ministry skills taught in the context of a caring Christian community?"

Trustees who left their March meeting deeply divided, stood resolutely behind their choice for the seminary's seventh president. Gone was talk of division on the board.

The vote was unanimous on a secret ballot of the 37 trustees pre-

sent at the called board meeting, said Ralph Pulley of Dallas, trustee chairman.

Asked if Southwestern's faculty is too liberal — a charge frequently hurled at other SBC seminaries in recent years — Hemphill said he is not yet in a position to judge. "No one has led me to believe the faculty is sprinkled with liberals. We do intend to keep the seminary lashed to the cross. I don't sense there is going to have to be a wrecking crew in here."

"Every institution has a right to set limits and boundaries," he said, and the seminary will adhere to the doctrinal guidelines of the "Baptist Faith and Message" statement of 1963 and the 1987 SBC Peace Committee Report, both of which he said affirm biblical inerrancy, the belief that the Bible is free of any error.

Only inerrantists will be added to the faculty, he said. As for current faculty members who don't use the term "inerrancy" to describe their view, Hemphill said, "I'm not as concerned about a term as I am a spirit, an attitude, and a conviction."

He said trustees extracted no

promises about changes he will make at the school.

Asked if he would "punish" members of the faculty who belong to churches that support the SBC-rival Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the new president said, "I'm not sure how you punish faculty." The seminary will abide by its governing documents in dealing with faculty, he said.

Hemphill was asked if Dilday would be welcome back on the campus, but before he could answer Miles Seaborn of Fort Worth, chairman of the search committee, interrupted to rule the question "out of order." Earlier Seaborn said he would not allow questions about past board actions or anything that did not address "the future and the love and reality of this moment."

Hemphill has directed the Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth in Atlanta, a joint venture of the Home Mission Board and the Baptist Sunday School Board, since 1992. Before that, he was pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va., which grew from 975 resident members to 6,529 during his 11-year tenure.

Representative asks for action

In 1975, the State of Mississippi became one of 32 states which issued resolutions calling for a constitutional convention. If such a convention garnered the 34-state majority it needs to become reality, the United States Constitution could be in a vulnerable position to be rewritten under the auspices of adding a balanced budget amendment.

Alabama, Florida, and Louisiana have since withdrawn their calls for a constitutional convention, but the convention is still precariously close to achieving a majority of states' support.

In 1988 state Representative William C. Denny of Jackson authored a bill which would rescind Mississippi's call for a constitutional convention, but the resolution has yet to see the light of day. The resolution (called HCR 12 during the 1994 legislative session, it will be issued a new number in the '95 session) needs support to accomplish rescinding the original request.

Denny urged: "... No matter what the question, constitutional experts feel... no state legislature should call for a constitutional convention for any reason... no matter how worthy.... As citizens of the United States, we are sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution."

Peter Marshall, in an interview with The Baptist Record, also upheld our Constitution as "the safeguard of our individual sovereignty, not just our national sovereignty. To relinquish that sovereignty in any way is to betray our God-given call to be a source of freedom and liberty for other nations."

Denny further urged Mississippians to immediately contact their state senators and representatives, asking them to pass the recall resolution. Contact them at:

The State Capitol
P.O. Box 1018
Jackson, MS 39215
Telephone: (601) 359-3355

CP gifts below budget amount

In 1994, Mississippi Baptists have given more through their Cooperative Program than they did for the same period in 1993, but less than the pro-rata amount needed to stay on target for the year, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

July giving was \$1,571,288, which added to January through June giving, totaled \$12,828,645.

This is \$336,729 (or 2.7%) more than that given in the first seven months of 1993.

The pro rata budget share is figured by taking the entire budget of \$22,452,000, dividing by 12 (months in the year), and multiplying by the number of months elapsed. The January through June pro rata amount would be \$13,097,000. Giving so far is \$268,355 (or 2.05%) under that amount.

Mississippi author moves to Indiana, leaves writing legacy

By Teresa Dickens

Mississippi Baptists are on the verge of losing one of their most prolific writers. Deborah P. Brunt of Corinth is moving to Muncie, Ind., this weekend, where her husband has accepted a new job.

Woman's Missionary Union members will most readily recognize Brunt's name. She has written Prayer Patterns in WMU periodicals for the past two years. She also has had three books published by WMU or its publishing company, New Hope: *BYW, Who Are We?*, *Things Fail, People Fall*, and *When Walls Come Tumbling Down*.

But her writing contributions are not limited to WMU. She also has written for several Baptist Sunday School Board publications. In addition, she has done numerous feature articles for Mississippi periodicals, and currently writes a regular column called "Perspective" for the Corinth newspaper.

Brunt, who wrote her first article as a 5th grader, views her writing as God's call on her life. She first recognized this call shortly after she and her husband Jerry married.

Although she had followed her

interest in writing by majoring in English and drama in college, she struggled with how to use the disciplines. She knew she had a strong desire to write, but was not sure that was what God wanted her to do.

Then one day as she sorted through the mail, she spotted Luke 19:13 printed on a newsletter from a local Church of Christ congregation that had come to their house by mistake. Verse 13-b reads, "Do business with this until I return."

"God spoke to my heart through that verse," said Brunt. "I knew he was calling me to write."

"But write what?" she asked. Within days, a friend asked her if she was interested in going to Nashville for a writers' conference offered by the BSSB. "Was this the answer to her question?" she wondered. Time would prove it was.

After completing several writing assignments for the BSSB, Brunt submitted an article to WMU's *Contempo* about a literacy project in which she was involved. It was printed and eventually led to the request from WMU to write a devotional book for Baptist Young Women (*BYW, Who Are We?*)

and to accept a two-year assignment as the writer of Prayer Patterns. (The later assignment ends with September's issues of WMU periodicals.)

Brunt's two books published by New Hope grew out of personal experiences.

Things Fail, People Fall was based on her struggle through a crisis in her ministry as a youth teacher. As she worked through her feelings of failure, she embarked on an inductive Bible study to learn what the Bible taught about recovery from failure. Her study, however, taught her that the Bible only talks about things failing. When it discusses people, it describes their action as falling. The book develops that thought through biblical and contemporary examples.

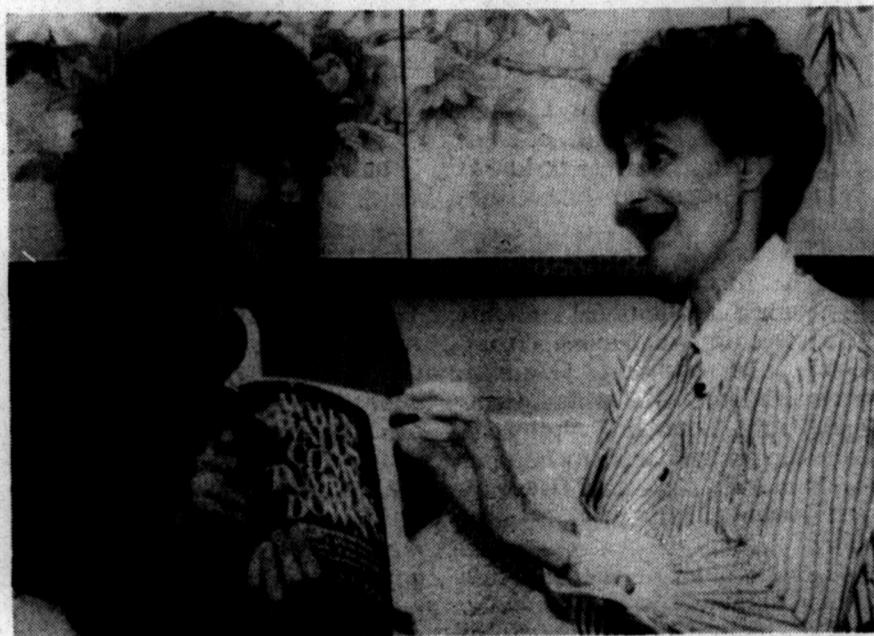
When Walls Come Tumbling Down centers on a similar study of the biblical concept of breakthrough. The idea was planted by a presentation she heard at the BSSB on its emphasis of BreakThrough in Sunday School and church growth. However, the book did not take form until her participation in a mission trip to the former Soviet Union in 1991. Again, she outlines the concept with biblical and contemporary examples.

Now Brunt is facing new life experiences: leaving family and friends, and living out of the South for the first time. Will they result in a new book? She doesn't think so although she has written about it in her column. Rather, she views the move as a breakthrough.

"We have prayed a long time for this kind of job for Jerry," she explained. "We believe this is the answer to our prayers."

However, she added, "As I discuss in the book, breakthrough hurts sometimes, but we are trusting God, believing that what he has in store for us will be the best thing for us individually and as a family."

Copies of Brunt's books are available through WMU, SBC, or the Jackson Baptist Book Store, (601) 977-9676. Her new address is P.O. Box 338, Yorktown, IN 47396-0338.



Author Deborah Brunt (left) and Ashley McCaleb, consultant with the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, discuss her latest book, *When Walls Come Tumbling Down*. The book is the second of Brunt's books to be published by WMU, SBC's publishing house, New Hope. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Volunteers provide meals, child care; officials look to flood clean-up

MEMPHIS (BP) — Southern Baptist volunteers continued to provide meals and child care to thousands in flood-ravaged Georgia, Alabama, and Florida at the end of July as relief officials sought more volunteers to help in a massive clean-up effort.

"Mud out" crews from Kentucky arrived last week with more due from Mississippi over the weekend.

Meanwhile, feeding units had provided more than 237,000 meals; child care units had served more than 675 children by week's end.

The following items are still

needed: pressure washers, pumps, shovels, buckets, disinfectants, brooms, mops, and rubber gloves. Also, work gloves, steel wool, sponges, dishwashing detergent, paper towels, bathroom tissue, pine cleaners, and heavy-duty rakes.

Items that will not be accepted at Columbus, Ga., include food, clothing, furniture, bedding, mattresses, and toys. Call (706) 323-4672 for details about shipping supplies.

Mickey Caison, a member of the Brotherhood Commission staff serving as national on-site coordinator, said last week that disaster

officials would meet about Aug. 1 to coordinate long-term rebuilding efforts. Prospective volunteers for this phase of disaster recovery should contact their state convention Brotherhood director, or the Home Mission Board at 1-800-472-2243.

Those wishing to make donations for disaster relief may send contributions to the Brotherhood Commission, SBC, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104 or to the Home Mission Board, SBC, 1350 Spring St. N.W., Atlanta, GA 30367. Designate the gift for flood relief.

Thursday, August 4, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



State Acteens honored

Tara Hall (second from right) and Amanda Richardson (second from left) of Highland Church, Vicksburg, recently completed the Mississippi State Citation step, the highest award an Acteen can receive in StudiAct. They were part of the StudiAct recognition service at the National Acteens Convention (NAC) in Birmingham. There, Jan Cossitt, Mississippi Acteens consultant (right), presented them a gift on stage at NAC. At left is Marti Solomon, Acteens specialist with the Woman's Missionary Union, SBC.

Texas exec. board to weigh CP compromise

DALLAS (BP) — Texas Baptists' Cooperative Missions Giving Study Committee struck a compromise agreement July 29, protecting the convention's traditional Cooperative Program (CP) tie to the Southern Baptist Convention but at the same time making room for support of such entities as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

As adopted by the committee July 29, the report will recommend a Baptist General Convention-Operated CP which will provide:

— that churches giving to both the adopted Texas CP budget and the adopted SBC CP budget, and according to the adopted percentage of division between the two, will continue to be recognized as

cooperating churches.

— that the BGCT will continue to recognize the decision of a church to delete up to five line items in either the Texas or the SBC CP budgets.

"Contrary to rumors that we have been moving toward separating the state convention from the SBC," said Ray, "we have reaffirmed the CP partnership.

"At the same time, the committee has chosen to honor the gifts of loyal Texas Baptists who out of conviction have chosen to support missions through other channels," he said.

MALT registrations grow

Pre-registrations are beginning to flow in for the first Metro Area Leadership Training (MALT) conference on Aug. 26-27 at First Church, Jackson, according to James Webster, MALT steering committee chairman and director of church services for Hinds-Madison Association.

While latecomers can register at the conference, Webster pointed out that pre-registration carries a guarantee that the conference materials package will be waiting upon arrival.

The MALT conference will include 195 sessions on 159 different subjects, conducted by the best conference leaders available, Webster said.

Major areas of concentration on the conference agenda include: General Officer, Adult Leadership,

Youth, Children, Children/Preschool Leadership, and Preschool.

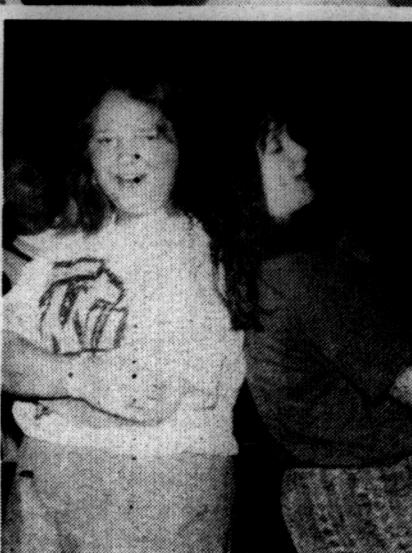
Sponsoring associations are Metro (Hinds-Madison), Rankin, Warren, Simpson, Leake, Copiah/Lincoln, and Yazoo. Mississippi Baptist Convention Board departments involved in MALT include Sunday School and Discipleship Training.

Registration can be made as individuals or groups. Registration fee for each person from the sponsoring associations is \$5, while the fee for each person outside the sponsoring associations is \$10.

For more information on the individual conferences and to pre-register, contact Webster at 6530 Dogwood View Parkway, Jackson, MS 39213. telephone: (601) 362-8676.

Church adopts Expanded Annuity Plan

The following church has adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the July 14 issue of The Baptist Record: Simpson: New Hope.



Faculty members for the Youth Conferences entertain during a fellowship time at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly (above). Youths at Gulfshore play a water balloon passing game which emphasizes the need for teamwork (top, left). Alan Loving, New Orleans Seminary student (top, right) who also works at First Church, Hattiesburg, leads in Bible study during youth week. With Loving, at right, is Marie Moody, 13, of Long Creek Church, Meridian. Theme for the study was that God restores fallen people. "Jesus' plan for

y'all to get restored is 'follow me,'" said Loving. A teenage girl was overheard later in a crowd to say, "The Bible study was actually pretty cool today." Allie Floyd, 16 (above, at left), and Faith Langley, 13 (above, at right), of West Ellisville Church, Ellisville, act out the song "Lean On Me," sung during one of six Youth Conferences at Gulfshore this summer. The program, sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, attracted more than 2,000 teens. (Photos by Tim Nicholas).

Wrenching courtroom testimony —

Iranian martyr Dibaj makes what becomes final plea for faith, life

Mehdi Dibaj, a Christian living in Iran, was arrested by his government and accused of apostasy. He was found guilty and sentenced to die. There was an international outcry, and many Christians in the U.S. wrote letters of protest. After 10 years in prison Dibaj, was released and later found murdered in a park in western Tehran (See *Baptist Record*, July 21). The following is the full text of Dibaj's testimony in Iranian court, Dec. 3, 1993.

In the holy name of God who is our life and existence.

With all humility I express my gratitude to the Judge of all heaven and earth for this precious opportunity, and with brokenness I wait upon the Lord to deliver me from this court trial according to his promises. I also beg the honored members of the court present to listen with patience to my defense and with respect for the name of the Lord.

I am a Christian, a sinner who believes Jesus has died for my sins on the cross and who by his resurrection and victory over death, has

made me righteous in the presence of the holy God. The true God speaks about this fact in his holy Word, the gospel.

Jesus means Savior, "because

... He asked me to deny myself and... not fear people even if they kill my body, but rather rely on the Creator...."

— Mehdi Dibaj, Iranian court
Dec. 3, 1993

he will save his people from their sins." Jesus paid the penalty of our sins by his own blood and gave us a new life so that we can live for the glory of God by the help of the Holy Spirit and be like a dam against corruption, be a channel of blessing and healing, and be protected by the love of God.

In response to this kindness, he had asked me to deny myself and be his fully surrendered follower, and not fear people even if they

kill my body, but rather rely on the Creator of life who has crowned me with the crown of mercy and compassion, and who is the great Protector of his beloved ones and their great reward.

I have been charged with "apostasy!" The invisible God who knows our hearts has given assurance to us Christians that we are not among the apostates who will perish but among the believers so that we may save our lives.

In Islamic law an apostate is one who does not believe in God, the prophets, or the resurrection of the dead. We Christians believe in all three!

They say, "You were a Muslim and you have become a Christian." No, for many years I had no religion. After searching and studying I accepted God's call and I believed in the Lord Jesus Christ in order to receive eternal life. People choose their religion but a Christian is chosen by Christ. He says, "You have not chosen me but I have chosen you." From when? Before the foundation of the world," said his wife.

Gulfshore faculty deal in fun, difficulty

By Tim Nicholas

Faculty, composed of college and seminary students, for the Youth Conferences at Gulfshore Assembly this summer served basically as counselors to the youths. They led in Bible studies and offered both the love of Jesus and their own hugs to the youths.

In a group interview the counselors lamented the lack of involvement of adults in the lives of many of the youths: Sunday School teachers "who spend about five minutes over cornflakes studying the lesson," parents not willing to get involved in their lives, youth leaders afraid to get involved. They said not all youths are ignored, but many are.

There is no generation gap any more, they said. This is a time, one said, when the youths "are facing at 12 what I faced at 18."

Last summer, a returning faculty member said they had to call the Child Abuse Hotline because of a

youth who confided to being sexually abused. This summer one faculty member, who formerly had an eating disorder, was able to help a youth who admitted the same problem.

"We let them know we're their friend, not just a teacher," said a faculty member.

The youths talk about being in divorced families, having bad body images, and having low self-esteem. "We let them know it's not their fault," said another faculty member.

Another added that their job was to get the message over to the kids that there is nothing a person can do to run God away. "God will love you, no matter how many times you've done it."

They challenged adults to get involved in kids' lives.

"Anyone can do what we're doing. Any adult can be used," they said.

American resident returns home after detainment in Iran

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — An Iranian-born American resident imprisoned in Iran for 12 days returned to his Boise, Idaho, home July 22 telling his family he knows God like he never knew him before.

The resident, Hassan Shahjamali, had visited in Iran with family members and friends, including Christian leader Mehdi Dibaj, Dibaj, an Assemblies of God minister, and Tateos Michaelian, chairman of the Council of Protestant Ministers in Iran, were found murdered in early July. (See *The Baptist Record*, July 21, 1994, for story.)

Dibaj, found murdered while Shahjamali was in prison, made headlines worldwide last December when Iranian authorities announced he would be executed for the "crime" of abandoning Islam. Following an international outcry — including a protest from the U.S. State Department — he was released from prison Jan. 16.

Shahjamali, a Christian convert from Islam, left the United States for Iran May 29 to visit his family, encourage Iranian Christians and share the gospel with interested Iranians. But at an airport in Shiraz, Iran, July 1, police arrested him and jailed him for 12 days.

His wife Sylvia, a native American Navajo from Arizona, said she didn't even recognize him when he flew into Los Angeles July 22. "They had shaved his head completely bald," she said. "They had shaved his mustache."

Except for one news conference in Boise upon his return, Shahjamali is declining interviews until he recuperates. "I'm sure you understand it's been very stressful for him," said his wife.

"They kept him blindfolded... and came and threatened him. He told them they could not touch him unless God allows it. And he said, 'I have asked God to not let you touch me.' He said it seemed like they were afraid of him."

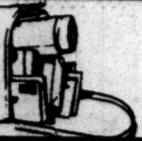
After his release from prison, Iranian officials escorted him to Tehran, the capital. During his ordeal he met with high government leaders. They told him they wished there were Muslims like him, she said.

Upon his return, his wife said she felt the presence of God when she was with her husband. "That night when I was with him... I literally shook because I could feel the presence of God was so enveloping him."

Shahjamali told those close to him he had sensed he was "in a fire" — but fully protected — while in prison. He likened his experience to that of the Old Testament characters Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they were persecuted by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar for their allegiance to the Hebrew God.

One source said Iranian officials took Shahjamali's passport from him even after he was released from prison. He battled Iranian bureaucracy about a week for permission to leave. The official Iranian news agency denied the government had imprisoned him.

Shahjamali works as a supervisor for an engineering group at Micron Semi-Conductors in Boise. He was a fighter pilot for the Shah of Iran in 1976 when he met his wife. She was in the U.S. Air Force, and he was training in Texas for the Shah's military. They have been married 16 years and have three children.



Letters to the editor



Decry abortion funds

Editor:

President Clinton and his wife Hillary still want a health care reform bill that would cover abortions. If such a bill passes, there will be even more federally-funded abortions in the United States, with the taxpayers footing the bill. That is wrong. Abortion is murder. It is an abomination in the sight of Almighty God, and the taxpayers should not have to fund it. Let us send the liberals in Washington a message: No more federally-funded abortions!

Kevin Waller
Bude

Student ministry

Editor:

In a few weeks there will be hundreds of students coming to Jackson and Clinton to attend Hinds Community College, Mississippi College, or other area colleges. This is an exciting time for these students and an apprehensive time for their parents. Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, cares about students and wants to be their "home away from home."

Through our college ministry, we offer opportunities for service, fellowship, social interaction, Bible study, and worship.

This year we will host "College Welcome Sunday." On Sunday, Sept. 11, students are invited to join our 9 a.m. worship celebration and then attend our college Bible study at 10:30 a.m.

If any of your readers know of students coming to Jackson/Clinton this fall, please call in their names with complete addresses

(home and college) to me at (601) 924-5620. We would love to make contact with these students upon their arrival in late August.

Stan Feener, associate pastor
Student Ministries
Morrison Heights Church
Clinton

Remembers Renicks

Editor:

It has been my intention for quite some time to write to you and tell you how much I have enjoyed *The Baptist Record*. I have been a reader of *The Baptist Record* since the days of Editor P.I. Lipsey during my teen years. That unusually great man became my role model and was my mentor when I was a student at Mississippi College.

The occasion that triggered my writing this letter was the front page account of the 50th wedding anniversary celebration of the Renicks (July 14). It brought back glowing memories of some of the happiest days of my life and friendships that I will cherish into eternity.

How well I remember that wedding. There were nine preachers on that pulpit platform and I was Percy Renick's best man.

I was "born again" at the Boulevard Church at the age of eight, the church where Dennis Renick served as associate minister during the latter years of his ministry.

Among those in the wedding party, I especially remember Hubert Hammett as a brother beloved. I have never known a more devoted Christian or one who so completely gave every fiber of himself in the service of

his Lord. He was righteous to the core. Like Nathan, there was "no guile" in him. To spend time in prayer with him, which I did many times, was a "foretaste of glory." I now live near his childhood home — Tigerville, S.C.

In the same year that wedding took place, I was pastor of a struggling mission church in Natchez. That mission became Immanuel Church on Aug. 14, 1944, and will celebrate its 50th anniversary in August.

In addition to planting the Immanuel Church, I was director of missions for the Pearl River Association during the years of 1948-51. In 1959 my family and I left the pastorate of Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto, to plant a church at Grand Island, N.Y., near Niagara Falls.

It was my intention to return to Mississippi and the family farm in Franklin County, which I own, but that has become impractical. I now serve as minister of discipleship and evangelism at the Berea First Church in Greenville, S.C.

Donald A. Bennett
40 County Cork Dr.
Greenville, S.C. 29611

Not glorifying God

Editor:

I have been watching all of the things that have been going on in the SBC and the actions of the fundamental/conservatives inside and outside the Convention as well as the moderates. I have been as devout in my Christianity as any person in any of these groups, but my opinion and that of the majority of other devout Christians has not been heard. The one conclusion I have

reached is: Giving glory to God has not been the motivating force behind any of these behaviors. Giving glory to God through our actions is our purpose for being here, as individuals and as the body of Christ.

I saw the actions at the 1993 convention surrounding the President and "what to do" with him and the church of which he is a member. I know those taking these actions will stand firmly and indignantly on 2 Corinthians 5 in defending themselves. However, they politely ignore our only instructions regarding the government and those in authority: Pray for those in authority (Rom. 13).

They choose to ignore this as their motivation because it doesn't fit their agenda, and it doesn't make good news copy to keep them in the limelight. Having worked in media for several years, I know its intoxicating power. I also know its appeal to the ego (fleshy nature) of those who want attention and to control others.

I would exhort and challenge all who claim to be Christian to take up a "new and innovative" crusade:

Pray for those in authority (Rom. 13). I find it impossible to criticize or condemn someone and

pray for them at the same time. Our instruction is to pray, not criticize.

Pray for those in the Convention with whom you disagree that God will be glorified in them and their service to him.

Pray for yourself. Ask forgiveness for attitudes that do not glorify God; ask for guidance that "...the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer" (Ps. 19:14, NASV).

It is my heartfelt conviction when I spend more time in sincere prayer and time alone with God, many things change: I do not have time to criticize others; I do not have time to seek my own glory; God changes my heart as I communicate with him and find out what is going on in heaven and how he wants to move those things into earth (Matt. 5:9), and how he wants to use me to accomplish the transfer.

We all need to spend more time in the prayer closet on our knees and less time criticizing one another and those in authority — especially in public and the media.

Jodie Cothen, pastor
First Church
Waveland

LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbover, Ed.D
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

How can my husband and I have more than just sexual intimacy?

Intimacy is warmth, openness, loyalty, and honesty. Our society defines intimacy only as sexuality. By limiting intimacy to only one dimension, a married couple misses out on the other dimensions of emotion and spirituality which complete the needs of each one of us. Intimacy involves the physical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of every man and woman. As we open ourselves to God, we make ourselves vulnerable to his direction and control, which brings us to mutual submission. As we open ourselves to our partner, we find answers we cannot find alone. Proverbs 27:17 says, "Iron sharpens iron." As we open ourselves sexually to our partner, we find enjoyment, fun and release in the arms of someone who cares. Let me suggest you laugh together more. Listen to each other's daily schedules. Take time to date. Go for a walk. Give non-sexual touches on a daily basis. Send love notes, flowers, and cards. Ask, "What one thing can I be praying for you today?" Share scripture passages together. Encourage each

other with kind words. Build each other up and play.

I am hearing all this talk of living a "disciplined" life. What is that exactly, and how do I get it?

In Eugene Peterson's contemporary English version of the New Testament, *The Message*, he describes the discipline mentioned in Hebrews 12:11 like this: "At the time discipline isn't much fun. It always feels like it's going against the grain. Later, of course, it pays off handsomely, for it's the well-trained who find themselves mature in this relationship with God." Discipline always has a goal. Someone once said, "If you aim at nothing, you'll hit it." Determine where you are and where you want to go. A runner must focus on the finish line. A student must focus on finishing the course. When it comes to a disciplined life, one must have a goal and then set down some objectives in getting there. You should start small — maybe getting up five minutes earlier each day. Use that time to read one Psalm or walk around the block. As you find success in the small things, you can move to the bigger things.

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Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

mbr

Just for the Record



First Church, Pontotoc, recently held a Girls in Action Recognition Service. The 29 girls who participated were, left to right: front row, Leslie Hand, Anna Claire Wood, Jessica Stokes, Mallori Wardlaw, Lacey Holland, Carley Anderson; second row, Tori Hendricks, Elise Bell, Elizabeth Todd, Holly Ruthledge, Amy Reeder, Kelli Cox, Jenny Savy; third row, Katie Dorris,

Southside Church, Jackson, will celebrate its 55th anniversary Aug. 7. Bill Causey, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be the guest speaker during the 10:30 a.m. service. Other activities will include recognition of individuals who have surrendered to the ministry while members of the church and a reading of the church's history. Don Bozeman is pastor.

Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, will host a concert by the Hoppers Aug. 7 at 7 p.m. and the Inspirations Aug. 18 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (601) 287-2864 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Three Mississippians were among students recognized recently during New Orleans Seminary's annual Outstanding Student Award Service. William "Butch" Knight Jr. of Slayden received

the seminary's Broadman Seminarian Award for outstanding ministry potential. He is pastor of Arkadelphia Church, Bailey, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Knight Sr. Larry Robertson, pastor of Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville, was the recipient of the seminary's C.C. Randall Award which recognizes the outstanding evangelism student. He is originally from Savannah, Tenn. Revis Leon Wallace of Bogue Chitto was recognized as the Outstanding Associate Degree Student.

The Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's Pastoral Care Department will host a retirement celebration for Joe Stovall Aug. 10, 2-4 p.m., in the CDC classroom "C."

A community-wide crusade, the "Tent Crusade for Christ,"

Choctaw County rehab center site of revival

John Staszefski, evangelist, has spread the word of Jesus to an often forgotten group of hurting teenagers.

Recently, he began preaching at Choctaw County Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Center in the Choctaw County Hospital in Ackerman. The teens come from many different areas. They were hurting, addicted to drugs or alcohol, often lonely, depressed, and without much hope.

Staszefski shared the love of Jesus Christ, and 15 out of 18 teenagers accepted Jesus as their Savior.

The teenagers often share how different they feel after accepting



Jesus, still the hope and cure for our hurting world.

Staszefski said, "A teenage boy who was saved for one week witnessed to a new friend. When I got there the next week the boy asked how he could know this Jesus."

The nurses reported seeing a complete change in the way the teenagers acted, did their lessons, and related to others.

Staszefski works through the Choctaw Association and Charles Gordon in this mission project. Staszefski lives in Weir with his wife and two children. He attends New Orleans Seminary.

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Homecomings

Center Ridge, Yazoo City: Aug. 14; 10 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; Kenneth Westbrook, Jacksonville, Fla., guest speaker; Steven Bath, Minden, La., music; H. Bryan Abel, pastor.

Shifalo, Kiln: Aug. 7; 85th year; 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; 2 p.m. singing; Bobby Perry, Gulfport, guest speaker; Talmadge (Tolley) Rayborn, pastor.

Big Creek, Waynesboro: Aug. 7; 11 a.m. covered dish in fellowship hall, noon; 2 p.m. singing; Billy Duncan, Montgomery, Ala., guest speaker; Mack Carney, pastor.

First, Ovett: Aug. 7: Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall at noon; Bill Riley, guest speaker; The Pathways Quartet, afternoon sing; Patti Smith Bush on program;

Foreign students need host homes

Students from abroad are arriving in the United States this month with a wish: to experience the joys of living in America. The not for profit AIFS Foundation's Academic Year in America program is now inviting American families to share their homes with these teenagers.

Teenagers from Germany, Brazil, Russia, Japan, and many other countries will arrive this month for 5-10 months, to live with an American family and attend local high schools. These young ambassadors from abroad are carefully screened for their English and academic abilities, and arrive with their own health insurance and spending money.

Whether you have teenage children, small children, or no children, you may qualify as a host family if you can provide a bed, a place to study, two meals a day, and an open heart. Interested families are invited to choose the boy or girl who would best fit with their lifestyles and interest, and hosting can be August through December, January through June, or August through June.

Interested families are invited to call Diane Malinowski at (800) 322-4678, extension 5405.

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Hiram Eaves, music: Tommy Mangum, pastor.

Magee's Creek (Walthall): Aug. 14; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; 1 p.m. singing; Darnell Archie, Bude, former pastor, guest speaker; Max Parris, pastor.

Galilee First, Gloster: Aug. 14; 170th anniversary; special services will begin at 10:30 a.m. with former pastor Randy Rich as guest speaker; Shelly Johnston, music: Sammy Smith, pastor.

Thomastown (Leake): Aug. 7; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; no night service: Rick Hammarstrom, pastor.

Staff Changes

Wildwood Church, Clinton, has called Mike Brister as pastor effective Aug. 7.

Hillcrest Church, George Association, has called George Jones as pastor.

Kirkville Church, Itawamba County, has called Len Sullivan of British Columbia, Canada, and formerly of Tupelo as pastor effective July 17. He returns from Canada after eight years of church planting and outreach Bible studies.

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Calvary, Jackson, to hold Arts Fest '94

Calvary Church, Jackson, has set Aug. 7 and 10-13 for its annual Arts Fest. The event combines performing and visual arts, along with a pilgrimage designed to show the heritage of the Jackson congregation.

Arts Fest '94 will open Aug. 7 with an organ concert by church instrumentalist James Arrington Goff. The concert is free and begins at 3 p.m.

On Aug. 10, the church Chancel Choir and various ensembles will present an evening of music. Selections will be informal, light, and inspiring. The concert is free and begins at 6 p.m.

Arts Fest '94 also will include pilgrimage tours Aug. 11 and 12, 10 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m. Reservations requested. Each tour will last approximately one hour.

followed by refreshments. Participants will be guided through the church's historic sanctuary and an arts and crafts exhibit area, displaying members' original works. The exhibit also will be open before and after events on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings.

Three performances of "Heavens to Betsy!" will close out this year's event. The play can be seen Aug. 11 and 12 at 7 p.m. and Aug. 13 at 3 p.m. Ticket costs are \$7, including dinner, for the evening performances and \$3, dessert only, for the matinee performance. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Seating is limited.

To make reservations, purchase theatre tickets, or obtain additional information on any event, call the church office at (601) 354-1300.

Annuity Board expands its toll-free services

DALLAS (BP) — Beginning Aug. 1, the Southern Baptist Annuity Board's 800 toll-free line will receive calls on an extended day, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Central Standard Time.

In May the Annuity Board also

enlarged the 800 service by increasing the number of telephone lines by 70% and hiring additional customer service specialists.

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Thursday, August 4, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Revival Dates

Mt. Zion, Florence: Aug. 7-12; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner served at church, and 1 p.m. service; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 nightly; Allen Stephens, director of missions, Rankin Association, evangelist; Richard and Pam Sparks, Pearl, music; Tommy Bufkin, pastor.

Mt. Pisgah, Enid: Aug. 7-12; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon meal in fellowship hall, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; David Waites, evangelist; Don Brummett, music; and Raymond Jeffcoat, pastor.

Bethel (Lowndes): Aug. 5-7; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Ron Harrison, evangelist; David Stephens, music; Charles Whitney, interim pastor.

Davis Road, Bryam: Aug. 7-10; Sunday, Chuck King, pastor, 6 p.m.; Mon., Ricky Summers, Philadelphia, 7 p.m.; Tues., Danny Dodds, Kosciusko, 7 p.m.; and Bill Hudson, Belzoni, 7 p.m.; Shelley and Irene Johnston, music.

Concord, Yazoo City: Aug. 7-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Chuck Hampton, Florence, evangelist; Henry Kirk, Yazoo City, music; and James Garner, pastor.

Summerland, Taylorsville: Aug. 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7 each night; Argile Smith, New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; and Jeff James, pastor.

Big Creek (Wayne): Aug. 8-12; 7 each night; Thomas Cheeks, Hueytown, Ala., evangelist; Randy Whitlock, Waynesboro, music; and Mack W. Carney, pastor.

McCool (Attala): Aug. 7-10; services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, covered dish meal at noon; Tues., covered dish for senior adults at noon; Charles Barnes, Beardstown, Ill., evangelist; William Smith, Noxapater, music; and James Lee Bailey, pastor.

Mars Hill, Summit: Aug. 7-12; Sunday, 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., dinner on the grounds; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; speakers are Lucky Teague, Sunday; Thom Lear, Mon.; Waylon Bailey, Tues.; Victor Walsh, Wed.; Anthony Yarborough,

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Thurs.; Kent Campbell, Fri.; Steve Bishop Gillsburg, music; Joe Jackson, interim pastor.

Ethel (Attala): Aug 7-11; Sun., 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., covered dish meal following services; Sunday-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Frank Harmon, Newton, evangelist; Andy Doty, music; Keith Dowden, pastor.

Cliff Temple, Natchez: Aug. 3-7; services, 7 nightly and 11 a.m. on Sunday; Lisemby Family, Kingsland, Ark., preaching and singing; Don Womble, pastor.

Fairview, Fulton: Aug. 7-12; 7 nightly; Leonard Russell, Counce, Tenn., evangelist; Talmadge Smith, Tupelo, music; Gene O'Brian, pastor.

Holly Springs, Brookhaven: Aug. 7-12; 7:30 nightly; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch served; 1 p.m. music service will be held with music group Obadiah; Gaston Jones, Big Springs, evangelist; Jamie Diamond, Brookhaven, music; Glenn McInnis, pastor.

Providence, Hattiesburg: Aug. 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Tony Lambert, Omaha, Neb., evangelist; Cliff Lazenby, pastor.

Wallerville, New Albany: Aug. 7-12; each service will be led by former pastors; Cornell Daughtry, Sunday morning; Lowell Johnson, homecoming services, Sunday afternoon, 2 p.m.; revival services will be held at 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Billy Wells; Tues., James Lewis; Wed., Phillip Duncan; Thurs., Gary Rivers; and Fri., Jim Nunnelee; Ray Burks, pastor.

Stronghope (Copiah): Aug. 7-12; services, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Ricky Blythe, Flora, evangelist; Cleonae Reid, music; Lowell Ingram, pastor.

Goodwater (Smith): Aug. 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. with lunch and 1:30 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Jimmy L. Chestnut, Raleigh, evangelist; Pete Ainsworth, music; John Adcock, pastor.

Ora (Covington): Aug. 7-10;

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Sunday, 11 a.m.; evening services Mon.-Wed. at 7; Buddy Keyes, Laurel, guest speaker; Richard Hamilton, pastor.

Union South (Covington): Aug. 7-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; James Messer, Theodore, Ala., evangelist; Bob Themes, Seminary, music; Lamar Williams, pastor.

Goss (Marion): Aug 11-14; 7 nightly and 11 a.m. Sunday; Philip Duncan, Columbia, evangelist; John Reid, Poplarville, music; William T. Wright, pastor.

Rock Bluff (Rankin): Aug. 7-10; Sunday, homecoming, services at 10:45 a.m. with guest speaker Paul Roberts; dinner will follow; Mon.-Wed. services for revival will be 7:30 p.m.; Mickie Ferguson, guest speaker.

Union Church (Union Association): Aug. 7-12; Sunday, homecoming, lunch in fellowship hall following 11 a.m. worship service; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Roy Myers, Meadville, evangelist.

Crooked Creek, Silver Creek: Aug. 7-12; Sunday, homecoming, Chris Dufrene, preaching in morning service; Sherrod Raby and trio singing in afternoon; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; dinner served in fellowship hall; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Robert Dunn, Prentiss, evangelist; L.C. Anthony, interim pastor.

Pecan Grove, Ellisville: Aug. 14-17; Sunday, 11 a.m. dinner on the grounds, and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Earl Reyer, Houston, Texas, evangelist; Boyd Tweedy, Petal, music; and David Moran, pastor.

Glading, Magnolia: Aug. 12-14; Fri. and Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, regular morning services, dinner on grounds, and afternoon services to follow lunch; Troy Bankston, Indianola, evangelist; L.J. Garner, Magnolia, music; Charles Kirkfield, pastor.

Good Hope, Lena: Aug. 12-14; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m., lunch, singing in afternoon; John Stevens, Philadelphia, evangelist; Johnnie Eubanks, Carthage, music; Gwen South, pastor.

Sidon (Leflore): Aug. 7-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., noon fellowship; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Ralph Buckley, Sikeston, Mo., evangelist; B.H. Maxwell, Pickens, music; David Bartlett, pastor.

New Salem, Liberty: Aug. 5-7; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m., dinner on the grounds, no evening service; Phil Winingham, evangelist; Kevin Hinton, pastor.

Christ, Greenwood: Aug. 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randy Reinhart, New Albany, evangelist; Bob Hatzfeld, Greenwood, music; L.D. (Joe) Brown Jr., pastor.

Uniform Celebrate God's ownership



By Richard Bradley
Leviticus 25

A true understanding of "biblical ownership" is one of our greatest barriers to understanding and participating in "biblical stewardship." The world's philosophy of stewardship is one of "I worked for it, I earned it, I deserve it, therefore, I can do with what is mine as I please." Admittedly, this logic sounds reasonable enough until we remember that this is the world's philosophy of ownership and not God's. Clearly, everything belongs to God!

The year of Jubilee (vv. 8-10). According to God's instructions, every 50th year was to be a special year in which liberty was to be proclaimed throughout all the land (v. 10). Individuals who had incurred debts and had sold themselves into slavery or who had indentured themselves as servants to others were to be released from their obligations and set at liberty. Additionally, since all land belonged to God, land could not be sold, but property could be lost to another because of debt. In the Year of Jubilee this forfeited land was to be returned to the families to whom it originally belonged.

Studying God's instructions concerning the Year of Jubilee helps us to realize that our loving heavenly Father wants us to be free from anything that would enslave us. God established the Jubilee Year to prevent the Israelites from oppressing one another (v. 17). The Jubilee Year served to prevent a permanent class system within Israel. It had a leveling effect on Israel's culture, gave everyone equal chance to start over economically and socially.

It all belongs to God (vv. 23-24). Verse 23 is clear as to who really owns what: "The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants" (NIV). We, who think we own it all because we have in our possession a piece of paper called a deed, are really just camping out on God's property for a short time! Amazing! It is a mark of God's grace that he even allows us possession of property and the wealth of this world for the short time that we have use of it.

An understanding of this biblical principle would revolutionize our approach to both stewardship and life in general. It is not that God has a right to 10% of our income or possessions, all of that which we call "ours" rightfully belongs to the God who gave it. However, God desires more than our property, income, and possessions. Because he alone is sovereign, only God can justifiably demand that we present our whole selves to him and without reservation (Rom. 12:1).

Compassion for the less fortunate (vv. 25-28). So God owns everything, including us. How can God's people honor his rightful ownership of everything? We can do so by ministering in a spirit of compassion to those who are less fortunate than ourselves. God recognized that there would always be those who, for reasons beyond their control, would become impoverished.

Because it was his right to do so, God provided a means whereby the impoverished might receive back what they were forced to forfeit due to their debt. This redemption was to be accomplished either through a compassionate kinsman, the accumulation of sufficient monies to pay the debt, or the arrival of the Year of Jubilee. To deny the redemption of the property under any of these circumstances would be to dishonor God and his rightful ownership of all things. To permit the redemption would be both a ministry to the poor and an act of service to God.

Be careful how you treat God's people (vv. 39-42). The world often treats the impoverished with contempt. However, God's people are not permitted to do so. Under God's terms, everyone is to be treated the same: with dignity. If there were among God's people those who were forced to indenture themselves to other Hebrews because of their debt, their landlords were not permitted to think of them as objects of property. They were not to be treated as slaves, but rather as hired servants who, through their service, earned a daily wage.

If everyone is truly made in God's image and if we really are the people of God and if we really do take that identity seriously, we will do as God bids us. We will treat others as we would wish to be treated ourselves and as we would treat the Lord himself if he were here among us.

Bradley is pastor, Handsboro Church, Gulfport.

Bible Book God appears, Job responds



By Raymond Kolb
Job 38-42

"Then the Lord answered Job out of the storm" (38:1). When God speaks, whatever his method, it is time for man to listen and that is what Job did.

It is not unusual in the Old Testament for God to reveal himself, or to speak, through a whirlwind, a storm, or something else unusual for the natural world. Job has questioned the fairness of God and demanded some answers. God does not spend time here answering all of Job's questions, but he challenges Job to get ready for a barrage of questions that will boggle his mind. Job is completely overwhelmed. Can anyone today read chapters 38 and 39 of this book without standing in awe of the power and wisdom of God, the Creator and Sustainer of the entire universe?

The Lord confronts Job directly now. "Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him!" (40:2). Job is embarrassed and humbled. He admits he spoke when he should have been silent. Now he has no more to say. Then, stand up like a man, Job. There are more questions. Do you still discredit the justice of God? Would you condemn him to justify yourself?

After listening again as God speaks, Job finally replies. He recognizes God's greatness more than ever before. "I spoke of things I did not understand.... My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes" (42:3-6). The more clearly one sees God as he is, the better he can see himself as he is. The contrast is frightening!

Toward the end of the drama (Chapter 42), the Lord gives a strong reprimand to the three friends of Job because they have misrepresented God in things they have said. He tells them to offer a sacrifice for themselves, that Job will pray for them, and that God will accept his prayer.

Job suffered much but he learned much. From the beginning of the book, or the drama, he is presented as a very fine, morally correct man who treated others well. As he suffered, he begged God, or even demanded of him, that his case be heard. Only after God allowed Satan to severely test Job and allow him to suffer horribly was he in condition to face God with an attitude of genuine humility so that he might have a happier, more intimate relationship with God. His pride was gone. He was ready to be a servant and let God be God.

With this renewed relationship to God he was ready for reconciliation with his fellow man and an attempt at reconciliation between other people and God. He prayed for his three friends who had acted more like enemies than friends and God accepted that prayer.

It is very interesting to note that it was only after Job had prayed for those friends that he became prosperous again. He had twice as much wealth as before. Friends and relatives were friendly again. He had seven sons and three daughters again, the same number he had before. Another interesting observation is that the names of the daughters are mentioned, though the sons' are not. Also, the daughters were made equal with the sons in relation to the inheritance. Does this not move nearer the New Testament standard of recognizing women equal to men in God's sight?

Let us now return to a former question: Is suffering always a direct result of sin on the part of the one who suffers? Definitely not. However, suffering sometimes is a direct result of sin on the part of the one who suffers, and should lead to repentance and a renewed relationship with God. But, let us be very careful about judging others.

Suffering is sometimes a blessing. How many of us might have died long ago of some infection or injury if pain had not warned us of the problem? Thank God even for pain. Never doubt his wisdom and his love.

Kolb is a retired missionary living in Clinton.

Life and Work Weak yet strong



By Ruth Allen
2 Corinthians 11, 12

Remember one of the first songs you learned? Remember? "Jesus loves me, this I know, For the Bible tells me so; Little ones to him belong, They are weak, but he is strong." Missionaries have used this song to convey the universal message of the love of Jesus. It is noted for simplicity and ease of understanding, and it conveys a fact that each Christian should welcome with joy: we are weak, but he is strong! When we yield our weaknesses to him, we become strong because he is strong! We are borne on the strength of our Lord and Savior.

It is amazing what Christians and churches will tolerate in the name of the Lord. Judaizers, preaching a perverted form of gospel based on conformity to the Law, had come to Corinth. Paul graphically depicted the errors of their doctrine. The Corinthians seemingly were enchanted by the erroneous teachings. Paul felt compelled to set the record straight! This necessitated Paul's boasting of his accomplishments in the Lord. He was embarrassed to have to do so, but at the risk of the Corinthians' thinking him to be out of his mind, he spoke on his own, not under the direction of the Spirit.

Paul accused the church of tolerating those who trampled them and criticized those who were weak. He used sarcasm to drive home his point; enduring hardships is not a sign of weakness. Paul had endured more than his share of sufferings; and as a result, the strength of Christ always sustained him. Suffering for Jesus is an almost unknown quality to Christians in America. Some Christians have sought to be transported to heaven on "flowery beds of ease," rather than seeking the strength of Christ to overcome weaknesses. Christians should be contrite when comparing their sufferings to Paul's. Through all of his hardships, he always had the welfare of his churches at heart. In the midst of crisis, Paul thought of others and prayed for the sustaining strength of Christ. He knew the strength of Christ could be obtained only as weaknesses were acknowledged.

Paul related how he was caught up into Paradise. There he heard words beyond utterance. This great experience made a tremendous impact on his life. In order to keep him humble, God permitted Satan to buffet Paul with a thorn in the flesh. This word can mean either "thorn" or "splinter." Either can inflict enough pain to serve as a reminder that Paul was still a mere man. He claimed no superiority because of his revelation experience. Three times Paul asked for the hindrance to be removed completely. Each time he was told, "My grace is sufficient for you." He was assured God's grace would be sufficient against any danger, and it would enable him to bear manfully any trouble.

In the Amplified Bible, verse 9 reads, "My strength and power are made perfect — fulfilled and completed and show themselves most effective — in your weaknesses. Therefore, I will all the more gladly glory in my weaknesses and infirmities, that the strength and power of Christ, the Messiah, may rest — yes, may pitch a tent over and dwell — upon me!"

According to A.T. Robertson, "God's grace suffices and abides. Power is continually increased as our weaknesses grow. Human weakness opens the way for more of God's power. Paul learned a lesson which never left him." In Philippians 4:13, Paul states, "I can do all things through Christ who keeps turning on the power." A cruise control in an automobile has almost become standard equipment. The control adjusts the engine to the power necessary to conquer any road condition. When the Christian allows Christ to set the control, power and strength are there to meet every need of life.

A father and teenage son were almost in sight of home when the automobile engine quit. They could coast to the repair shop if they could just push the car over the slight rise in the road. Their strength was insufficient to surmount the incline. A stranger stopped and gave them the added strength needed. After thanking the stranger, the father added, "Your strength, added to our inadequate strength, was more than enough to meet our emergency." Christ's strength added to ours is always sufficient! Trust Christ to provide sufficient strength!

Allen lives in Jackson.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of *The Village View* is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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APRIL 30, 1994

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Donald & Bridget Robertson
Danny Rose
Mr. & Mrs. Owen Jones
Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Stoenig
Mr. & Mrs. Owen D. Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Sims



Youth from First Church, Collinsville, (left photos, above) worked hard on their "Mission Trip" to The Baptist Children's Village. Mr. Ernie Nelson led the group as they helped to maintain the beauty of the grounds on our India Nunnery Campus in Jackson. Thanks for all your hard work girls and guys!

Mr. Bob Catlett (top right photo, center) gives instructions to guys from our Water Valley Campus and our India Nunnery Campus on the Ropes Course. The group worked

together for a week this summer on different elements to learn about trust and teamwork and to build self-esteem.

A group of girls from Reedy Acres and our India Nunnery Campus (above, right) also



enjoyed a week on our Ropes Course in Jackson. This group of young ladies was led by Counselor Kathy Saucier (center) and Unit Director Mike Crocker (left). The girls are pictured maneuvering through the "swinging tires" element. Way to go, girls!

1994 Graduating Senior, Miss Vanessa Green (left) is the recipient of a scholarship provided by the Willene W. Crum Trust which is being handled by the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. Mrs. Dorothy Lee Lampton, daughter of Mrs. Crum, set up the trust specifically designated for scholarships for graduating seniors who are residents of The Baptist Children's Village. Anyone wishing to donate to this trust may contact The Mississippi Baptist Foundation or Ronny Robinson at The Baptist Children's Village.

Miss Green has been in Ocean City, Maryland, this summer as a Sojourner Student Missionary and plans to attend Northwest Community College in the fall.

Mrs. Mary Nell May
Mr. Earl Cumberland
Mrs. Carroll Browning
Mr. Ancie "Tom" Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Isonhood
Mr. Bruce Davis
Philadephia SS, FBC, Fulton
Mr. Lonnie H. Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Willard Pounds
Mr. Tom Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Buchanan
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Buchanan
Mr. William Dews Sr.
Young Adult I SS, DeKalb BC
John Roger Dawson Sr.
Mr. Donald A. Thompson
Mr. Gordie Whittington
Stacie Dean
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Fulce
Mrs. W. T. (Dorothy) Denman, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. George Chadwick
Mrs. Mac C. Dickens
Mrs. Louise Bland
Mrs. Maggie Duck
Mrs. J. P. Marsalis
Jennifer Duke
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne McClain
Mrs. Sherrell Duncan
Robert, Debbie & Benjamin Selman
Mr. William Easterling
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Allen
Mrs. Audrey Belle Ellsey
Dr. The F. Middleton
Mrs. Carl O. Haskins
Mr. Robert Ertle
Oak Grove BC, Bentonia
Earl & Ines Evans
Mr. & Mrs. Pat D. Brooks
Luna Mae Evans
Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Tew
Mrs. Sally Mae Culver

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Thomas & Family
Mrs. Lois Young
Mr. Ashley Caldwell
Mr. & Mrs. James L. Travis
Ames A. Calender
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kemp
Mrs. Helen Callahan
Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Simmons
Mrs. Elizabeth Caples
Mrs. Jacqueline B. Oaklin
B. M. Carr Sr.
Harry Hall SS, FBC Greenwood
Bryan McKnight Carr Sr
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond L. Craig
Mr. B. M. Carr
Mr. & Mrs. Paul J. Jaggars
Mrs. Sally Carr
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Coleman Jr.
Mr. Will Carr
Ora Baptist Church, Collins
Mr. & Mrs. D. C. Gatewood
Mr. Candy Cartright
Mr. & Mrs. D. S. Bowering
Mrs. Irene Brown
Mrs. Marjorie M. Burke
Mary Lee Bruno
Mrs. Max H. McDaniel
McDaniel Mr. & Mrs. Max
Mr. Bill Bryant
Mr. & Mrs. E. P. Stegall
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Young
Maggie Bell Buffkin
Vaden Baptist Church
Mrs. Maggie Buffkin
Mrs. Katherine Melton
Mrs. Mildred W. Pörter
Mr. Robert Erasmus Bullock
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Smith
Mrs. Francois L. Cank
Estelle Burchfield
Mr. & Mrs. C. D. Pollan
Louis H. Burghard
Mr. and Mrs. Billye Butler
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Grillo
Martha Burns
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Barbee
Mildred Burns
Mrs. Neil W. Dismuke
Mr. Dan Burrows
Mr. & Mrs. D. S. Bowering
Mrs. Mary B. Bush

Mrs. John B. Easter
Harry Ezell
Mrs. Helen Cannon
Mr. Albert C. Ferrell
Mr. James H. Cannon
Mrs. Shelly Flint
Mr. Floyd Griffin
Myrtle M. Forbes
Hoyt & Hilda Forbes
Robin Forbes
Hoyt & Hilda Forbes
James Freas
Ray Grillot's SS, FBC Crystal
Springs
Mrs. Louise Palmer
B. J. French
Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Hutchins Jr.
Mr. Harold Purlew
Mrs. Mack V. Furlow Sr.
Mrs. Ligon F. Gardner
Mrs. Martha B. Nation
Miss Mary E. Waggoner
Mr. Lowell Garner
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Polk
Mrs. W. W. Garner
Mr. Roy Fairchild
Mrs. Roma Germany
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Rollins
Mr. Elton Greer
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Slay
Mrs. Barbara Gunter
Mr. & Mrs. James S. Pilgrim
Mr. & Mrs. Richard C. Ellsey
Rev. & Mrs. Wilburn Matthews
Mr. S. S. Guy
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Thomas
Mr. Spence Guy
Ageless Wonders, FBC, Macon
Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Makinson

(to be continued)

Capsules

CHRISTIANS KIDNAPPED AND KILLED FOR REFUSING TO RECITE ISLAMIC PRAYERS: ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (EP) — Fifteen Christians were killed June 8 on the Philippine island of Basilan, 320 miles south of Manila, apparently for "failing to recite Islamic prayers." More than 15 other Christians were then taken hostage by guerrillas thought to be members of a Muslim extremist group. According to a report from Worldwide Photos and Media, a threat was made on June 9 that the remaining hostages would be killed within three days unless the equivalent of \$926 was paid as ransom for each person held. A week before, government forces had stormed and captured the Abu Sayaf guerrilla center in Patikul, in the Sulu Province, 430 miles south of Manila. They killed more than 30 guerrillas, including four commanders. It is believed that the present kidnapping and massacre are in retaliation for that assault. On Sunday, the Abu Sayaf claimed responsibility for a bombing in Zamboanga City, killing three and wounding 39. On Basilan, local officials and Muslim high priests, with influence over the guerrillas, are being used in negotiations to save the Christians.

CHRISTIANITY FACES SEVERE CHALLENGES IN EUROPE: WASHINGTON, D.C. — The church faces severe challenges from materialism, apathy, cults, and other religions in Europe, where Christianity once was the dominant faith, world Baptist leaders report. "It's crunch time for the Christian church in Europe," said Tony Cupit, Baptist World Alliance director for evangelism and education, at a recent conference. "Baptists in Europe are deeply concerned about their lack of growth and are crying out to God to renew faith and life. They hope to go into the next century with renewed passion for mission and evangelism." European evangelicals, meanwhile, have launched a "Hope for Europe" campaign to unite their ranks across borders for more effective prayer, evangelism, church planting, and social action. The Western Europe Mission organization says more evangelical churches meet in Zaire than in France, Spain, Italy, and Portugal put together.

RELIGIOUS LEADERS APPEAL FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE: WASHINGTON (ABP) — Universal health coverage is a moral mandate, not a partisan or political matter, leaders of major U.S. religious bodies declared in a recent statement. The statement — titled "A Pastoral Appeal: Health Care Coverage for All Americans" — was issued as Congress wrestles with the specifics of various health-reform proposals. Signers included officials of several religious organizations representing Baptist, Episcopal, Methodist, Lutheran, Church of Christ, Moravian, and Catholic traditions. "Anything short of health care for all is morally flawed," the religious leaders stated. Without universal coverage, the nation's poor and those without significant assets will fall away, often unnoticed, the statement says. "Therein lies the moral issue: whether we are willing to provide for all people as children of God." Baptist signers included Jimmy Allen, past president of the Southern Baptist Convention; James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee; Stan Haste, executive director of the Alliance of Baptists; Tom Logue, director of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Arkansas; Daniel McGee, a professor at Baylor University; and Cecil Sherman, coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

BILLY GRAHAM TALKS, PRAYS WITH O.J. SIMPSON: MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (EP) — Evangelist Billy Graham offered encouragement and prayer to O.J. Simpson during a June 19 phone call from Graham's home in North Carolina. Simpson has been accused of the Los Angeles murder of his ex-wife, the former Nicole Brown, and her friend Ron Goldman. "As we watched the saga involving O.J. Simpson unfold..., my wife, family, and I began to pray for him and the victims' families, that out of this situation we might find some good," Graham said in a statement. "I was able to remind him of God's love for him and presence with him even at this very difficult time."

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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ERH LI WEMH YRXS XLIQ, YRXS CSY MX MW
KMZIR XS ORSA XLI QCWXIVC SJ XLI OMRKHSQ
SJ KSH: FYX YRXS XLIQ XLEX EVI AMXLSYX, EPP
XLIWI XLMRKW EVI HSRI MR TEVEFPIW:

QEVO JSYV: IPIZIR

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Six: Four.

Tiny northwest Mississippi church gets new life with spirit of growth

By Shannon T. Simpson

New Garden Church outside Independence may not be the biggest church in the world, but most pastors pray fervently to have its growth rates.

When Gail Burbeck of Olive Branch first came to pastor the tiny church in 1988, there were only one man and three women in regular attendance.

"This church was dying, if not already dead," Burbeck said.

At the beginning of his ministry at New Garden, there were lots of old wounds to heal — high pastor turnover, lack of unity, and an ownership mentality had pushed the church into decay.

Now, attendance at the country church has jumped to an average of 50. Sunday School attendance averages 40; the congregation just completed work on its fellowship hall and an outdoor pavilion; it plans to renovate its Sunday School building and then its sanctuary. In 1991, '92, and '93, the church took the Northwest Association's Discipleship Training M Night award for high attendance.

"We grew so fast we had to turn one of our bathrooms into a Sunday School room," Burbeck chuckles.

What's the secret?

Burbeck said he just "teaches these people to love the Lord, love each other, and pray for each other."

The church ministers to a community which is mostly unchurched. The congregation maintains a food locker and helps members and others in financial trouble, said Burbeck. "They can pay it back or not, whatever they want."

Burbeck has been a bivocational pastor for almost 40 years, most recently at Center Hill, Olive Branch, for 18 and a half years before coming to New Garden. His "day job" was as night supervisor for Thompson & Formby's manufacturing in Olive Branch. He says he "made a deal with God to surrender to preach" when his wife Beverly became seriously ill many years ago. He worked midnight

each other.

He has other philosophies about what makes up the Christian life. He said he "preaches hard," believes in tithing, "not for my sake, but for the church's sake, so they can grow in obedience."

He also believes in giving through the association and the state convention. "You just can't do it by yourself," he said, referring to outreach and missions. Regarding traditions like revivals. "I could be wrong, but I feel like as long as you are winning souls, you don't need [them]. Take the money and serve with it."

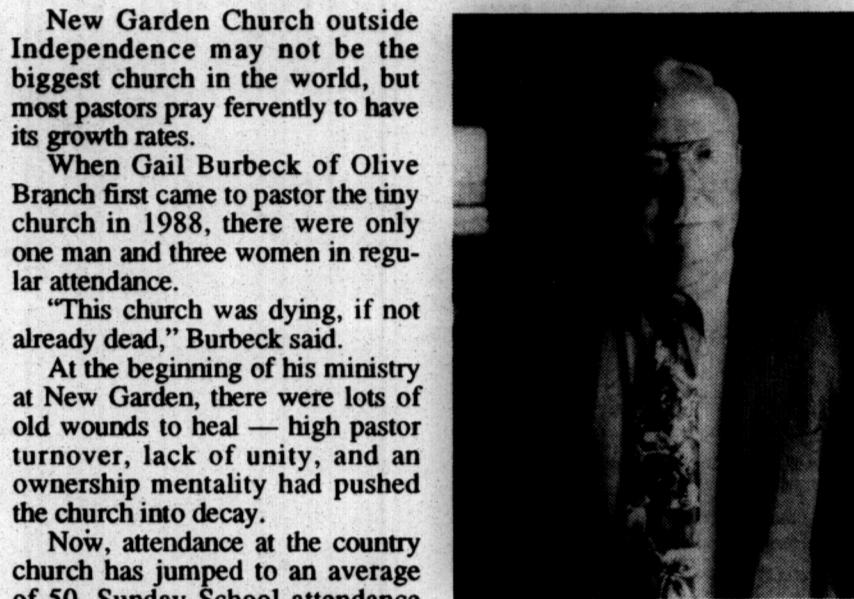
"We Baptists have lost out on a lot," Burbeck said, "because we're afraid of being called 'Pentecostal' or 'charismatic.' I think people ought to just be happy."

Now in his sixth year at New Garden, Burbeck has a dream for the church: "I want to see the church grow to where the people enjoy leading other people, especially their own children, to the Lord."

John Perkins, Northwest Association's director of missions, said the Burbecks "have a spirit of reaching others — maybe not always directly, but they are committed to helping their people help others."

"I've been encouraged (by the growth at New Garden)," Perkins said. "Large churches are often the first things that strike our eye because of the way the world values things, but there is certainly a place for New Garden's ministries. This church ministers to people in need, and those people in turn respond. They have built community, and they are proud of what they've been able to accomplish."

"God called me to this kind of a church," said Burbeck. "There's no closeness in big churches like there is in small churches — it's like family. The pastor must be in touch with the people... the numbers must represent souls. I think if a church gets to be 500 members, they ought to start another church. A church should never become a club."



Gail Burbeck is pastor of New Garden Church near Independence. The bivocational pastor is a retired Navy man and former night supervisor with Thompson & Formby's. In the six years since he undertook the New Garden pastorate, the church has gone from dying to thriving.

shifts from that time so he could preach on Sundays.

Heart surgery a few years back caused Burbeck to take disability retirement. Now almost 67, his health is good, and his smile is testimony to his love and calling — winning souls.

"I just get out and knock on doors. My job is to look after these people and teach them they must reach out," said Burbeck. "I have an easy ministry at this church. They are so sweet, and they are so sweet to my wife. That's so important."

"And I have some real prayer partners in the deacon chairman, Henry Williams, and the ladies, Ruth Roberts and 'Miss Pearl'.... They are all just wonderful."

The congregation displays its covenant prominently on the front wall of the sanctuary. Beneath it, a mourners' bench testifies to what Burbeck said is the members' commitment to do whatever it takes to submit in love to God and



New Garden Church, Northwest Association, ministers to a rural, mostly unchurched community. The building was purchased from a Presbyterian congregation around 1968 when a group from New Hope Church wanted to begin another church in the area. To the right of the rock-like structure (hidden behind the sign) are a new fellowship hall and outdoor pavilion, both built by members.

Baptist Record

005-DTM
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August 4, 1994